

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by newly cited Japanese publication 2-173462. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the forward-drive/reverse-drive switching device is “adapted to switch between forward drive and reverse drive.” Applicants wish to thank Examiner Pang for the courtesy of an interview on December 7, 2005 at which time it was agreed that a claim of this scope overcomes the outstanding rejection based upon Japanese publication 2-173462. Since Takagi was simply applied to suggest the subject matter of the dependent Claim 5, the amended claims define over the prior art.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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